

Relatives may now visit striking Ashkelon prisoners

GAZA, Jan. 2 (R). — Israeli military authorities today lifted a ban on jail visits by relatives of Arab prisoners who have been on a hunger strike for 22 days. About 380 Arabs held in nearby Ashkelon prison on security charges have been demanding prisoner of war status and improved conditions. The prohibition on visits was imposed when the strike broke out.

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Sadat to meet Carter in W. Germany, Rose Al Youssef says

CAIRO, Jan. 2 (AFP). — Egyptian President Anwar Sadat will meet the new U.S. President Jimmy Carter in West Germany in the spring, the weekly Rose Al Youssef reported today. Egyptian officials refused to confirm or deny the report which the weekly said came from official West German sources.

Israeli intellectual claims he signed peace pact with PLO

TEL AVIV, Jan. 2 (R). — The leader of an Israeli peace group said today that he expects the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Beirut to accept the existence of Israel if Israel recognises the PLO.

Retired Maj.-Gen. Matityahu Peled, chairman of the Israeli Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace, told a news conference that he and a senior PLO representative had signed a joint statement implying such acceptance in Paris yesterday.

The joint statement, if confirmed, could mean that the PLO has changed its basic aims, observers said. The PLO charter does not recognise Israel, and promises to replace it with a secular state in all of Palestine.

Presenting the statement to the press, Gen. Peled declined to identify his Palestinian counterpart, but said the man "was a top PLO figure mandated to the meetings by PLO chairman Yasser Arafat and the leadership of the Palestinian movement."

The key point in the joint statement said the PLO considered

the principles of the peace group headed by Gen. Peled as an adequate basis for solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The group calls for the existence side by side of Israel and a Palestinian state.

Gen. Peled, who heads the Arabic Studies Department at Tel Aviv University, said the signing of the document was a historic development in Israeli-Palestinian relations.

He said it was the high point of meetings which his group had conducted with the PLO in Paris since September and which were scheduled to continue.

Present at two of the meetings was former French Premier Pier-

re Mendes-France, Gen. Peled's associates said.

The statement said "the PLO leader has been active lately in the United States where he endeavoured, together with his comrades, to acquaint the public with the PLO's policy as defined by its leadership."

Gen. Peled said the Palestinian was a "veteran fighter, highly educated and dedicated to peace."

According to the joint statement, the PLO representative said his movement was "dedicated to the policy of striving for a peaceful solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the basis of the mutual acceptance of the principles."

[Continued on page 6]

PLO denies signing document with Peled

BEIRUT, Jan. 2 (R). — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) tonight denied that anyone had made contact on its behalf with an Israeli peace group led by retired Maj.-Gen. Matityahu Peled.

The denial was issued in the form of a statement by Mr. Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO

political department, to the Palestinian news agency Wafa.

Wafa quoted Mr. Kaddoumi as saying that it was categorically untrue that a PLO representative signed a document with Gen. Peled about the Palestine issue in Paris yesterday, as reported by Gen. Peled at a Tel Aviv press conference today.



Mr. Yigal Allon

TEL AVIV, Jan. 2 (Agencies). — Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon today said Egyptian support for the idea of a Palestinian state formally linked to Jordan was of "great importance" and a "turning point."

President Anwar Sadat of Egypt said last Friday that general acceptance of the idea was one of three conditions for restarting the Geneva peace conference between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

Following Israeli cabinet meeting

Allon: Sadat's speech a "turning point"

In a Washington Post interview, he also said Israel must rapidly withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, including the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

Mr. Allon said after the weekly Israeli cabinet meeting here that he attached "great importance" to the fact that President Sadat backed the idea.

This "turning point" could be the beginning of a drift away from the idea of a separate Palestinian state, co-existing with Israel and Jordan, he said.

A "ministate" run by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would be non-viable, Mr. Allon said.

Problems facing all parties in the Arab-Israeli dispute would more readily be solved within the greater confederation framework supported by Mr. Sadat, he said.

Asked what form the Palestinian-Jordanian union should take, Mr. Sadat told the Washington Post "Whatever model they agree on between them."

Mr. Sadat also said that Lebanon must be a full participant in any Geneva conference.

Mr. Sadat said that Lebanon is a "confrontation state" that would have to be included in a truly comprehensive settlement is to be reached.

He said President Elia Sarkis of Lebanon agreed with him.

During much of an hourlong interview at his retreat on the banks of the Nile north of the capital, Mr. Sadat stressed his desire to reach a comprehensive regional peace settlement that would relieve both his country and Israel of a military burden neither can afford and that would defuse a dangerous situation.

He also emphasised again that new initiatives from the United States are required to bring about a settlement. "If the U.S. is ready for peace to prevail in the area, it can be done in a month," he said.

When the President got down to details, however, it became clear that at the least there is a long, delicate period of bargaining ahead before any settlement acceptable to all parties can be reached.

Mr. Sadat said that after a meeting with King Hussein in 1974 "we issued a declaration and I was attacked vehemently by the Palestinians at that time. My idea was



President Anwar Sadat

and still is that a certain relation between the Palestinians and Jordan should be declared to take place whenever the Palestinian state is created." He said it could take the form of a confederation or "whatever model they agree on between them."

Mr. Sadat had been suggesting publicly that the Arabs might be willing to accept a peace accord in which Israel would agree in principle to withdraw from the occupied territories but the pull-out would be phased over an extended period of time. He ruled that out in the interview.

"We shouldn't say that Israel will evacuate the land in two or three years. No. This is wrong. They should evacuate in a suitable time," he said.

After occupying the Sinai in the Suez war of 1956, he said, the Israelis pulled out in two or three months, and they can now follow their own example.

Mr. Sadat said Security Council resolution 242 imposes obligations on both the Arabs and the Israelis. If both sides commit themselves at Geneva to carrying out those obligations, he said, "the result will be this. We are asking for a peace agreement to be signed and declared officially all over the world... If we want to reach a genuine, permanent peace, Israel should withdraw from the land and this should be stated in the peace agreement, and give Israel whatever guarantees she wants. We shall not oppose this. To the extent of a defence pact with the United States I shall not oppose it."

[Continued on page 6]

Rabin: No change in Israeli policy towards PLO

TEL AVIV, Jan. 2 (AFP). — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said today there had been no change in Israeli policy regarding Palestinian representation at the Geneva peace conference.

Mr. Rabin reaffirmed the policy in response to questions following a weekly cabinet meeting and a political review by Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon.

The prime minister said Israel would negotiate a peace settlement within the Geneva framework only with existing sovereign states.

The subject of Israel's eastern frontier would be negotiated with the government of Jordan, Mr. Rabin said.

He added, however, that Israel would not object to participation in the Jordanian delegation to Geneva of "accredited" Palestinian representatives, residents of Jordan or the West Bank."

But will try again in 10 days

Richard makes little headway with Smith

SALISBURY, Jan. 2 (R). — British envoy Ivor Richard today left here for South Africa after making little immediate headway in acrimonious talks with Rhodesia Prime Minister Ian Smith on guiding this breakaway colony to black rule.

Mr. Richard, on a shuttle tour to seek a basis for progress in the adjourned Geneva conference on Rhodesia which he chairs, put forward a series of proposals to Mr. Smith on an interim government.

Mr. Smith agreed to consider some of the proposals and give an answer when Mr. Richard returns in about 10 days. But Rhodesian sources said other suggestions were rejected outright by Mr. Smith.

In his two-and-a-half hour meeting with Mr. Smith yesterday, Mr. Richard suggested sending a resident British commissioner here during the transition to black rule, re-establishing a British presence more than 11 years after Mr. Smith's government declared Rhodesia independent.

He also suggested that a national security council should be charged with administering the portfolios of defence and law and order during that period.

This topic has been a major stumbling block at Geneva, with whites insisting that these portfolios remain in white hands and the nationalists saying the army and

police should be controlled by blacks.

It was these British proposals Mr. Smith said he would consider.

But Mr. Smith turned down a suggestion by Mr. Richard that an interim government leading to black rule should consist only of a council of ministers with a British-appointed, Rhodesian sources said.

Mr. Smith said this would be a major breach of the Anglo-American proposals known as the Kissinger plan, which he accepted as a package deal in September, these sources said.

Under the Kissinger plan --

generally rejected by the black nationalists -- there was to have been a supreme council of state, chaired by a white, and a council of ministers with a majority of Africans and a black chief minister.

The sources said that under the Richard plan, the British nominee for chairmanship of the council of ministers would hold the balance of power. He would not necessarily be British.

Mr. Smith believed Mr. Richard's suggestions would involve Britain in the interim government to a degree far beyond that regarded as acceptable by white Rhodesians, the sources said.

Mugabe: The solution will come from the battle-front, not Geneva

DAR ES SALAAM, Jan. 2 (AFP). — Robert Mugabe, political front-man for the Rhodesian guerrillas, today warned of an intensified guerrilla campaign to put more pressure on standard-fight Rhodesian whites now blocking the country's accession to independence.

In an interview with the government-owned Sunday News here Mr. Mugabe said "We realise the settlers haven't been hit hard enough. This is why we would like an intensification of the armed struggle."

He wanted reinforcements for the guerrillas in the field and better training facilities in camps in African-ruled countries bordering Rhodesia so that "a greater impact" can be made on the settlers.

He described the Geneva talks on Rhodesia as successful in that the nationalists made it clear beyond doubt that independence must come without unnecessary obstructions blocking the way.

They had also forced the British and United States governments to reveal "indirectly" that their intention in convening the conference was to try to set up "a puppet government which they call moderate."

On Britain's possible future role in an interim government, Mr. Mugabe insisted that the nationalists did not want Britain to "recolonise" the country but they had all along wanted Britain to act as the decolonising power.

On the possible effectiveness of the Geneva talks, Mr. Mugabe was pessimistic. The solution "will come from the battle-front not from Geneva," he told the Sunday News.

The British attitude is understood to be that the new proposals are designed to give assurances to both the whites and the black nationalists during the transition to black rule, and to ensure a smoother transfer of power.

The British believe that Mr. Smith will eventually see merit in the compromise proposals as a way of ending the guerrilla war and lifting international trade sanctions on Rhodesia.

In the wake of Mr. Richard's departure it was not yet clear whether the Rhodesia conference chairman had accepted the idea that recently-formed African parties might take part in future Geneva talks.

The leaders of ZUPO (the Zimbabwe United People's Organisation) which was formed last week said they had asked for a seat at the resumed, conference and that Mr. Richard had agreed to consider their request.

Mr. Richard also had a meeting with Bishop Abel Muzorewa, who leads one of the African National Council factions, with leaders of the moderate Rhodesian Party and the Liberal Centre Party as well as meeting commercial and industrial leaders.

Mr. Richard will go on from South Africa to visit Botswana, Mozambique and Tanzania before returning here in nine or 10 days time.



Mr. Ian Smith

Jordan supports Sadat's proposals

AMMAN (JNA). — Minister of Information Adnan Abu Odeh, commenting on President Sadat's statement to the Washington Post, Sunday, welcomed "President Sadat's realistic and objective evaluation of the expected peace settlement based on right, justice and reality."

This policy, he added, also meets the aspirations of the Palestinians. Mr. Abu Odeh, who was speaking to a correspondent of the Middle East News Agency here, added that President Sadat's reflects the awareness shown by the Egyptian political leadership of the delicate phase the Middle East crisis is currently passing through.

The region, Mr. Abu Odeh said, will witness intense political activity on the Arab and international level this year in addition to tangible progress in Arab cooperation, which is necessary in view of the political situation created by preparations for the Geneva Middle East Peace Conference.

PLO official advocates terminating role of anti-Fateh rejectionists

KUWAIT, Jan. 2 (R). — The Palestine Liberation Organisation representative in Kuwait has called for the ouster of Palestinian groups within the Rejection Front which deviate from the PLO's national goals.

Speaking at a rally here last night to mark the 12th anniversary of Fateh, the largest Palestinian group, Mr. Ali Yassin said Palestinian national unity could not be achieved among groups and fronts with contradictory aims.

"We believe in the necessity of ending the role of the rejection fronts which reject Palestinian national aims," he said.

Mr. Yassin said rejection groups were "either followers of foreign ideologies or the creatures of Arab regimes." This was an ap-

parent reference to the Marxist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the pro-Iraqi Arab Liberation Front, the two main groups within the Rejection Fronts.

He told a crowd of about 10,000 people who attended the rally that national unity could be achieved only through "an independent national movement whose main aim is liberation."

Mr. Yassin said that if Israel withdrew from some of the occupied Arab lands, "we will establish our national authority and our independent state on this land."

But, he said, the PLO continued to insist on "no recognition of Israel and no surrender of one inch of our land."

Shut down Lebanese publications to reappear within 48 hours

BEIRUT, Jan. 2 (Agencies). — The six Lebanese newspapers and one magazine which stopped publication two weeks ago when their offices were occupied by the Syrian-dominated Arab peace-keeping force will come out again within the next 48 hours, according to an official source here today.

Their buildings will be evacuated by the troops tomorrow, it was learned.

But in future, all the Lebanese press will be censored.

A government decree signed yesterday said that the police will have the right to "censor totally or partially or even suspend" any publication.

The Arab peace-keeping force occupied the offices of Al Moharrar, Beyrouth, Al Safir, Al Nida, L'Orient Le Jour, Al Nahar and the magazine Al Dustour.



Mr. Ivor Richard

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1977

The start of a new year tempts the flesh to react -- like a cat reacts to waking up by reflexively stretching and yawning -- by viewing the new year as a fresh opportunity to do well, if not to be good. If we look at things objectively, like the scientist, we end up admitting that the new year celebrations are nothing more than our fancy way of recognising the 12th completion of the lunar cycle. But if we view things with a stronger dose of romanticism, perhaps like the scientist who also plays a violin, we see in the cyclical march of the moon a slight pause by which we can forget what has passed and look again at what we seek to accomplish. If we do not quite take a full inventory of the state of humanity in its complex universe, we do take a few extra deep breaths, wipe the eyes, shake the sleep from the head and plod ahead determined at least to make it through the coming year in a fashion that harms as few people as possible and helps as many as it is realistic to so do. If we did not do at least this much, we would be inhumanely mean.

Looking back on 1976, there are strange reasons to conclude that it was in some ways better than 1975 (for one thing, there has been an end to the talk about the Western nations invading the OPEC nations, and that's a start to making things better all around). Closer to home, it strikes the human being who seeks silver linings that 1976 was the year that the Lebanese war ended, while 1975 was the year it began.

The year 1976 has also seen some movement -- not much, but some -- in the very important but very difficult process to work out just economic relationships among the world's developed and developing nations. The principal vehicle for this -- the north-south dialogue in Paris -- went into 1976 kicking and screaming that it would get nowhere fast, and came out of 1976 with less kicking and screaming, but still going nowhere fast. It is progress, though, to have shed the dramatics and gotten down to the heart of the matter.

It is tempting to look ahead and list what one hopes will happen in 1977, but to do so somehow seems to admit that in simply wishing for the best in the next 12 months we abdicate our responsibility to work for the best things we desire. In the wishing and hoping department, we wish and hope that it shall rain soon. But in everything else, it seems to us appropriate to reaffirm that the coming years should see more determined application of the principles the world has learned about -- with a jolt perhaps -- during the past few years. These principles boil down to the boring and tedious concepts of self-determination, justice and honourable deeds. A quick glance back at 1976 will show that where these have been denied, violence and conflict have erupted; but that where there has been a sincere effort to have these principles put into action, the meek head of harmony has popped onto the landscape.

Our hopes for the coming year are that, after it rains, there shall be a continuing effort among the warriors and the farmers of the world to be more humble and more merciful. If this is combined with an increased determination to stand fast by one's honourable principles, then it is reasonable to expect that the world shall shed more of its theatrics in the next year.

Inshallah.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Al Rai and Al Dustour of Amman Sunday commented upon the state budget for 1977, which was approved by a royal decree immediately after its figures were released by Minister of Finance Dr. Mohammed Al Dabbas Saturday.

Al Rai says we do not feel embarrassed when we see the big difference between the budget revenues and the general expenses, because "our country cannot be isolated from playing its national role stemming from its geographical and political position."

The paper continues: "Expenses will continue to exceed local revenue as long as our armed forces carry out their duties on the front-line extending from Ras Al Naqura to Aqaba and along the northern front-line of the Arabian peninsula with all its vast oil resources; as long as we called upon to do our duty towards our people in the West Bank by providing them with essential services, municipal and general development projects; as long as our universities, our graduates, technicians and military experts are doing educational and military training services in more than ten Arab countries. To equip this host of functionaries with knowledge and know-how needs millions. "On the contrary we feel proud of the difference between our income and our expenditure. And

we would only like to remind our Arab brothers that world Jewry collects an annual \$800 million in aid of Israel, not to mention \$2.8 billion from the United States. Arabs are richer than the Jews and are much more committed to us than the U.S. to Israel. Jordan's reality, in terms of land, people and cause merits more generosity."

Al Dustour observes that budget allocations for the armed forces emphasise Jordan's determination to continue playing its national role in the defence of the Arab homeland. (Out of a general budget of over JD 332 million JD 67 million was earmarked for armed forces maintenance and JD 11.4 million for public security.)

In addition to this, Jordan has translated its aspirations for a better future life by carrying out the Five-Year Development Plan -- as a national and pan-Arab responsibility, Al Dustour adds. Earlier on Saturday the Jordanian papers took up the occasion of the new year to comment on peace in the Middle East, which is being discussed everywhere in the world. The papers say the Arabs do not want to reject peace or cast doubts on the possibility of it being achieved, but they want to be convinced that they are not being led into believing that peace is at hand while it is in effect being dodged by Israeli manoeuvres. The papers emphasise that peace

Civil service employees get new salary raises

AMMAN (JNA). -- His Majesty King Hussein Saturday approved a new raise on the salaries of civil service employees.

Government employees who work in the field of their specialisation will get a maximum raise on their basic salary which will amount to:

- 100 per cent for doctors and engineers
- 70 per cent for dentists, chemists, veterinarians, judges and agricultural engineers
- 60 per cent for nurses
- 50 per cent for midwives
- In addition to that raise the above mentioned will get a special allowance ranging between JD 30-180 every month,
- 100 per cent for Ph. D.s
- 50 per cent for M. A.s
- 45 per cent for diplomas
- 40 per cent for judges under training and B. A.s
- 30 per cent for vocational graduates
- 20 per cent for general secondary certificates.

Finance Minister announces: JD 332 million for '77 budget

AMMAN (JNA). -- The Jordanian budget for 1977 stood at JD 332,600,000, the Minister of Finance Mohammad Debbas announced here Saturday.

At a press conference held at the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Debbas outlined details of the budget which has been recently approved by the Council of Ministers and His Majesty King Hussein.

Total expenditure amounted to JD 224,300,000 broken down as follows:

The Jordanian Armed Forces JD 67 million, public security JD 11,400,000, civil services JD 79,500,000, relief for the refugees JD 4 million, emergency, subsidy for foodstuffs and others JD 9 million, interests for public

debts and foreign credits JD 8 million, surplus of current account JD 45,400,000.

As for non-development capital expenditure, JD 17,362,000 was allocated for repaying loans, foreign commitments, repayment of domestic and foreign commercial loans and commitments.

Development capital expenditure for the projects of the five year plan has been allocated the total of JD 53,038,000 being the share of the state's treasury.

Technical and economic assistance projects would get JD 4 million, projects of loans and aid JD 64,300,000 projects of expected loans and aid JD 15 million, thus bringing total expenditure to JD 332,600,000, Mr. Debbas added.

He noted that the government anticipated JD 137,300,000 in local revenues, JD 87 million from financial aid in the following breakdown: from Saudi Arabia JD 11 million, from Kuwait JD 9 million, from the United States 15 million, other sources JD 52 million, thus bringing the total revenue to JD 224,300,000.

The government was expecting to get JD 10 million in the form of domestic and foreign loans, Mr. Debbas said.

Deficit in the budget stood at JD 15 million, he pointed at.

The budget expected to get

JD 4 million from economic and technical assistance, JD 64,300,000 from loans and aid and JD 15 million from anticipated loans and aid, thus bringing the total of revenues plus deficit to JD 332,600,000, Mr. Debbas added.

Industrial bank extends loans for 5 new industries

AMMAN (JNA). -- The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) Wednesday approved a total of JD 367,000 in loans to five new industries. These include the construction of a hotel in Irbid and plants for plastic containers, soap, aluminium and the establishment of a quarry here.

Revenues are expected to reach JD 115,000 during the first year of production and the five industries will create job opportunities for 85 workers.

The IDB had granted 74 loans during 1976, totalling JD 5,523,000 as compared to only 41 loans in 1975 totalling JD 2,436,600.

Norwegian parliamentary team arrives on visit

AMMAN (JNA). -- A Norwegian parliamentary delegation Sunday evening arrived here on a two-day visit during which its members will meet with His Majesty King Hussein, H.H. Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Mr. Bahjat Talhouni.

The delegation includes 14 parliamentarians three of whom were former prime ministers.

The Norwegian team will visit among others, the Schneller refugee camp to look over the living conditions of its residents.

In a press statement which he delivered at the airport on the purpose of the Norwegian delegation's visit, Mr. Talhouni said: The Norwegian parliamentarians will visit Syria and Egypt besides Jordan to listen to the Arab viewpoint on the Palestine problem in particular and the Middle East crisis in general.

The visit of the delegation will surely yield positive results as previously witnessed by similar visits by Dutch, British, Swiss and West German parliamentarians who, after returning to their respective countries, were able to do some justice to our cause through their various information media, Mr. Talhouni said.

The parliamentary delegation was welcomed at the airport on its arrival by Mr. Talhouni, senators Ahmad Toukan and Ahmad Al Lawzi, a number of senators and protocol officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Norwegian ambassador to Egypt who arrived here Saturday evening from Cairo to join the delegation also was present at the airport to welcome its members.

Head of the Norwegian parliamentary team (centre) chats with Speaker of the Parliament Bahjat Talhouni (right) who received him and the accompanying delegation at Amman airport Sunday. Senator Ahmad Toukan (left) listens to the conversation. (JNA photo).



Jordan joins Arab day for eradication of illiteracy

AMMAN (JNA). -- Jordan will join the Arab countries next Saturday in marking the Arab day for the eradication of illiteracy.

The Education Ministry has prepared a special programme to celebrate the day by holding a series of seminars and lectures outlining the hazards of illiteracy and Jordan's efforts aimed at its elimination.

Jordan was able over the past two decades to reduce illiteracy to less than 40 per cent and expects to wipe it out completely within the coming ten years.

Mideast business tabloid published

A unique monthly tabloid publication titled Mideast Business Exchange, is published in Los Angeles, California, U.S., in English to help foster greater economic ties between businessmen of the Middle East and the United States of America, publisher, Joseph R. Haiek, announced in Los Angeles last week.

Mideast Business Exchange will primarily cover the markets of

the Arab World, Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey concentrating on economic conditions, trade opportunities, joint ventures, tenders, trade fairs, codes and laws.

As a special service to the Middle Eastern businessmen and their government economic institutions, the Mideast Business Exchange will publish, until further notice free of charge, any trade orders tenders, bids, proposals and other economic requests provided that these orders are endorsed by government institutions or official chambers of commerce of the same country where the orders are originated; meet the commercial regulations of their respective governments; are limited to 60 words in English.

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	Local rates, JD	International rates, JD
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Last page	0. 900	1. 750
Inside pages	0. 500	1. 350
Page two	0. 650	1. 600

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian filis for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.S. dollar	330.0	332.0
U.K. sterling	563.0	569.0
Swiss franc	135.3	135.0
German mark	140.3	140.0
French franc	66.8	67.0
Italian lira		
(for every 100)	38.0	38.0
Syrian pound	82.6	82.0
Lebanese pound	116.0	116.0
Saudi riyal	94.8	94.0
Iraqi dinar	948.0	957.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1161.0	1170.0
UAE dirham	83.5	83.0
Libyan dinar	700.0	710.0
Egyptian pound	457.0	465.0

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محلى اصبه القليل

IMF expected today to approve \$3.9-billion loan to Britain

WASHINGTON, Jan 2 (R) — The board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) meets tomorrow and is expected to approve Britain's request for a \$3.9 billion loan to bolster its sagging economy.

Britain already has the support of other leading industrialised nations for its application, which has been pending since October, and the loan is therefore unlikely to be refused.

Moves to trim British government spending announced last month by Chancellor of the exchequer Denis Healey appear to have satisfied most countries concerned.

United States Treasury Secretary William Simon said after the measures were announced that the U.S. which controls the largest bloc of votes in the IMF, would support Britain.

The mechanical details enabling Britain to borrow the money were completed in Paris just before Christmas when the group of 10 leading non-communist industrial nations activated the General Arrangement to borrow (GAB). The IMF itself does not have enough funds to meet Britain's requirements, and the borrowing will therefore be done under the umbrella of the GAB, set up in 1962 to cope with just such an emergency.

The U.S. will contribute \$1.1 billion, West Germany \$910 million, Japan \$644 million, the Netherlands \$122 million, Canada \$64 million, France \$58 million, Belgium \$52 million and Sweden \$23 million.

Switzerland, although not a member of either the group of 10 or the IMF, will contribute \$335 million. The International Monetary Fund itself will provide the additional \$558 million from its own resources.

The money raised through the GAB will be available to the IMF for between three and five years at an interest rate of four per cent for the first three years rising to six per cent.

Britain is expected to draw about \$1.2 billion of the loan immediately after the IMF board gives its approval on Monday, another \$1.2 billion or so later in the year and the remainder during 1978.

The IMF does not appear to have made the conditions attached to the loan too onerous. However, the fact that Britain will not receive the money in one lump indicates that its economic policies will be closely monitored.

With the question of the British loan all but settled, the attention of the international financial community will turn to its next pressing problem, that of the sterling balances.

The £6 billion held by governments and private individuals outside Britain have constituted one of the major monetary headaches facing the British for nearly 20 years. The volatility of these holdings has been a major cause, real or imagined, of the instability of the pound during this period.

International central bankers are due to meet later this month to discuss the whole question of the balances.

The Britain government apparently wants a "safety net" under which the international financial community would provide a mechanism to offset heavy selling of the pound by foreign holders.



This aerial view shows the newly-completed circular Wembley Conference Centre designed by architects Richard Seifert and Partners which has already taken bookings for more than 1,000 days of conferences and exhibitions. In the background is the famous Wembley Stadium, home of the F.A. Football Cup Final and many other international fixtures. The new centre, less than 10 kms. from central London, forms part of a complex that includes the stadium, music and squash centres, an international swimming pool and sports arena, a 330-bedroom hotel, office blocks and car parks. The circular main auditorium of the conference centre will seat 2,700, and five lecture theatres accommodate between 100 and 650. There are smaller rooms suitable for seminars and well-equipped exhibition areas of about 3,000 square metres. Simultaneous multi-lingual interpreting is available in up to eight languages. (BIS photo)

"Peaceman" allowed to sail down Suez Canal

PORT SAID, Egypt, Jan. 2 (R). — Israeli "peace campaigner" Abie Nathan, who broadcasts pop music and peace appeals from a pirate radio ship, was today allowed into the Suez Canal after his earlier requests were rejected by Egypt.

Mr. Nathan's 400-ton vessel Voice of Peace arrived in Egyptian territorial waters off Port Said last Friday and has been waiting for permission to sail through the 160-kms. waterway to the Red Sea.

Egypt has previously accused Mr. Nathan, who has been conducting his campaign since the 1967 Middle East war, of broadcasting Israeli propaganda.

The ship, normally moored in the eastern Mediterranean was flying the Panamanian flag when it joined a southbound convoy of ships in the canal this morning.

Mr. Nathan said before leaving Israel on his latest trip that he had cabled President Anwar Sadat asking for permission to sail through the canal.

The transit through the canal was handled by the Egyptian Aswan Navigation Company. The company paid \$2,400 in transit dues.

The vessel was not allowed to dock at Port Said harbour and was searched before entering the canal, which reopened to traffic in 1975 after being closed since the 1967 war.

Only historians able to decipher headlines in Chinese newspapers

HONG KONG, Jan. 2 (AFP). — Headlines in the local press that "civil war breaks out in Szechuan," China, made a good New Year's Day laugh, a local columnist wrote in a Chinese-language daily here today.

The columnist, Mr. Lin Chor-han, said in today's Tin Yat Pao that the "civil war in Szechuan" was fought during the Cultural Revolution (1966-69), and has long since been closed and entered into Chinese history books.

In May, 1967, Red Guards instigated by (Former Defence Minister Lin Piao and (Mao's widow) Chiang Ching attacked national defence factories, starting a large scale civil war in Szechuan with machineguns, mortars, and hand grenades, he said. The battle spread to various cities and counties with the severest fight taking place in Chungking where three war vessels were sunk in the Yangtze River, tanks were mobilised, and locomotives dashed along recklessly, the columnist recalled.

In March, 1968, despite moderating efforts by Premier Chou En-lai, Mme Chiang Ching for the first time advocated the slogan of "attack by words, defence by force," plunging Szechuan into another bloodshed with violent clashes engulfing Chungking, Chongqing, Ipin, Peiling, Luchow, Yunchuan and other places when hundreds of thousands of lives were sacrificed, the columnist said. Since the re-emergence in 1973 of (Vice Premier) Teng Hsiao-ping who, together with Political Commissar Li Ching-chuan of the Chengtu (Szechuan) military region, had held sway in Szechuan for two decades, peace and calm has been restored in that province, the columnist said.

If "civil war" had occurred in Szechuan at all, Chairman Hua Kuo-feng would have dealt with it easily by sending Mr. Teng and Mr. Li back to Szechuan, the columnist said.

Reports from Peking quoted a szechuan Radio broadcast of Dec. 24 on mass rallies to denounce the "gang of four" when speakers accused radicals of "inciting civil war and factionalism" in the province with the "sacrifice of the lives of many class brothers."

The speakers were also quoted as condemning the radicals for "inciting an all-round civil war" in Ipin "with serious losses of life and property."

Pakistani opposition begins unification for elections

RAWALPINDI, Jan. 2 (AFP) — Pakistani opposition parties have started to unite for a common front against Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples Party in the forthcoming general elections in the country.

According to opposition sources, an agreement in principle has been reached among the eight right-wing opposition groups to wage a collective fight at the polls.

They are now discussing a division of seats to be contested by each party and a formal announcement about a joint opposition front is expected when the government has fixed a definite date for the elections, constitutionally due before August next.

A major share of parliament and provincial assemblies' seats to be contested by the opposition is likely to be allocated to the Tehrik Istiqbal Party headed by former Air Force chief, (retired) Air Marshal Asghar Khan, opposition sources said.

The suspense about the holding of the general elections now seems to be over with repeated statements by Premier Bhutto that the polls would take place in accordance with the provisions of the constitution.

The coming elections would be the second country-wide general elections in the country's 30 years history. The first in 1970 were held during the military rule of former President Gen. Yahya Khan who was deposed after the dismember-

ment of the country in December 1971.

Prime Minister Bhutto recently reorganised his party throughout the country apparently in preparation for the elections.

He has been extensively touring all parts of the country and is to begin a tour of Punjab, the most populous of the four provinces, in the next few days for possible assessment of the political situation.

Meanwhile, the arrangements for the holding of the general elections have been completed.

The parliament has passed a comprehensive bill prescribing a

framework for the conduct of the elections. It provides a period of about 48 days for campaigning.

Pakistan's election commission, headed by a retired judge of the Supreme Court, will conduct the elections to 200 seats of the National Assembly and 460 seats of the provincial assemblies.

The commission today announced the limits of each of the constituencies. It has already announced the electoral rolls showing the

number of voters in the country at about 35 million, half of them being women.

While deciding to participate in the elections, the opposition continues to express apprehensions that the polls would be rigged by the ruling party.

An opposition leader said: "We are going into the arena with our hands tied to our backs but we decided to fight to promote democracy in the country."

A tough market to crack....

The Jordan Times advises all advertisers and advertising agencies that a special rate is now in effect for long-term insertions in "Amman Marketplace".

Details are available from the Jordan Times advertising department, which can be contacted by phone at 67171-2-3-4 between 9.00 a.m.-1.00 p.m. and 6.00-10.00 p.m.

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GO BACK IN TIME, TO SEE THE HOLY LAND AS IT MAY HAVE BEEN 2,000 YEARS AGO...

Photos and Text By Gordon N. Converse

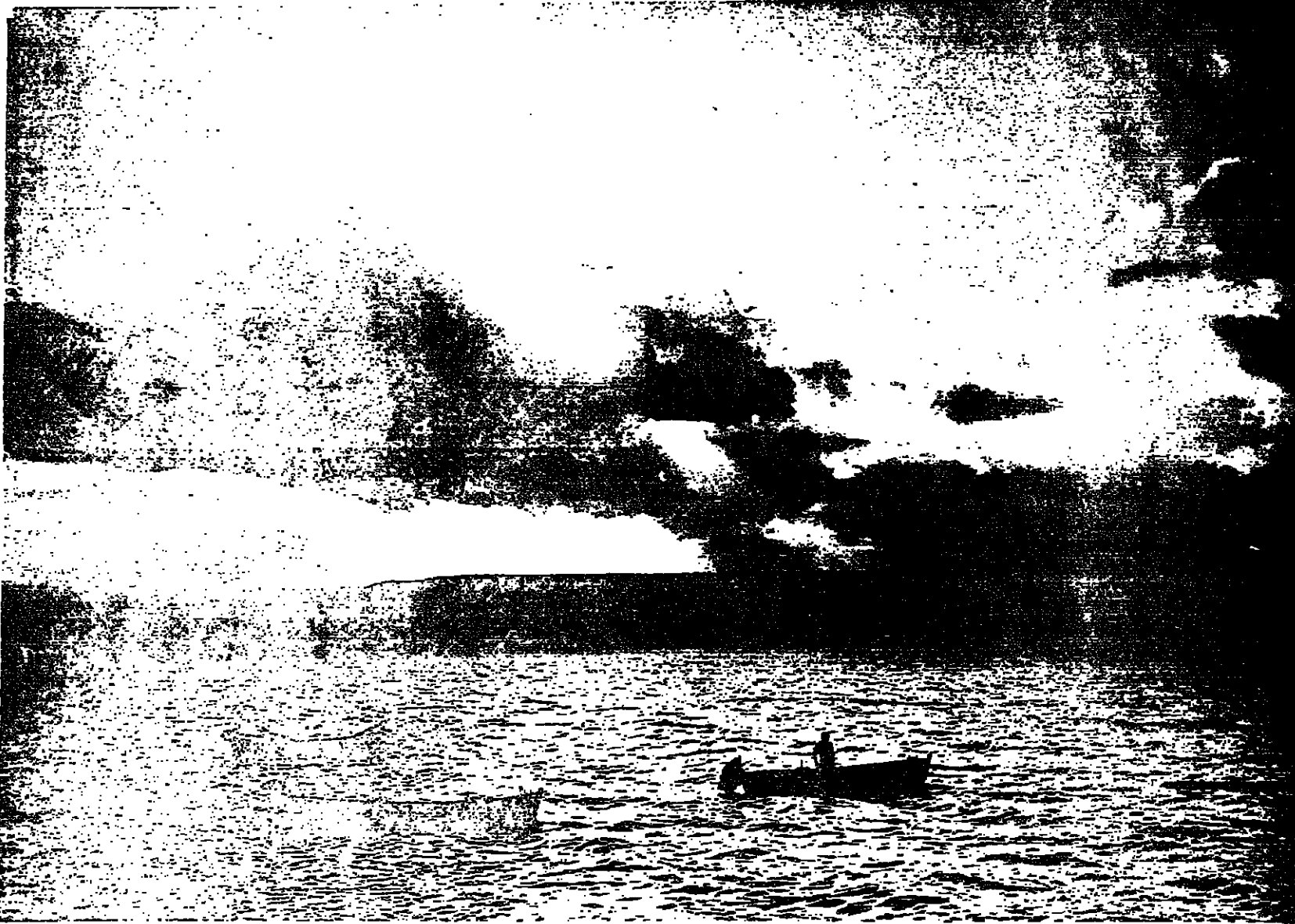
The Sea of Galilee, also known as Lake Tiberias, Lake Kinnereth, and Lake Gennesaret, is the largest body of fresh water in the Holy Land. One's first view of it from the pastoral highlands above is likely to be startling; the lake nestles 686 feet below sea level.

In the time of Jesus there were a great many towns and villages by the lake, especially on its western shores. But Tiberias, the most important town today, is little mentioned in the Gospels.

It was in Capernaum, at the northern end of the lake, that Jesus did much of his preaching and remarkable healing work. On the Galilean shores nearby, many believe, he fed the multitude, on the hills above the city preached the Sermon on the Mount, and in the local synagogues healed and taught through simple parables.

His parables were so often related to the land and lives of the Galileans that today one can sense a special closeness to the Gospels here.

"And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: And there went out a fame of him through all the region round about. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all." (Luke 4:14, 15).



A fisherman on the Sea of Galilee returns to Tiberias at dawn with a night's catch.



Ruins of the synagogue at Capernaum, which may be on the site of the one in which Jesus preached.



Tafraha Bay, the spot at which some believe Jesus breakfasted with disciples after the Resurrection.



"St. Peter's fish" from the Sea of Galilee.



Bread of Tiberias.

VOICE OF AMERICA

GMT	
07:00	The Breakfast Show
08:00	08:00, 04:00, 05:00 and 06:00
09:30	GMT News, Regional and Topical Reports; VOA Current News Summary.
10:30	03:30, 04:30 and 05:30 GMT: An informal presentation of popular music with feature reports and interviews, answers to listeners' questions, Science Digest.
17:00	News Roundup, Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analyses, News Summary.
17:30	Dateline.
18:00	Special English, News, Feature: The Making of a Nation, News Summary.
18:30	Music USA (Standards)
19:00	News Roundup, Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analyses, News Summary.
19:30	VOA Magazine, Americana, Science, Cultural, Letters.
20:00	Special English, News.
20:15	Music USA (Jazz).
21:00	VOA World Report: News... newsmakers' voices... correspondents' reports... background features media comments... news analyses.

RADIO JORDAN

(On 856 KHZ)	
7:00	Breakfast show
7:30	News bulletin
7:40	Morning melodies
8:00	Sign off
10:00	Listener's choice
11:00	Date with a star
11:30	Catch the word
11:45	Pop session part I
13:00	News
13:05	Pop session part II
14:00	News bulletin
14:15	Music
14:30	Good vibrations
15:00	Concert hour
16:00	Old favourites
16:30	Easy listening
17:00	Jordan weekly
17:30	Pop session part III
18:00	News summary
18:05	Sixteen weekly
18:20	Music
18:30	Classical showcase
19:00	News bulletin
19:10	Music
19:30	Sign off

EMERGENCIES

Doctors:	Fattaleh (37140)
Amman:	Jabal Hussein (38410)
Habib Iskandar Armanos (38650)	
Kamel Ya'coub Atieh (62840)	
Irbid:	Shifa
Abdul Razzak Tbeishat	
Zarqa:	Saadah
Jaber Ibn Hayyan	
Taxis:	
Cultural Palace (86955)	
Neel (44335)	
Rainbow (37249)	
Hussain (21776)	
Pharmacies:	
Amman:	
Nassar (22791)	
Shaab (23238)	

AMMAN AIRPORT

Arrivals:	Departures:
07:00 Cairo (EG)	07:05 Aqaba
07:25 Kuwait	07:45 Cairo (EA)
08:30 Aqaba	08:30 Damascus, Aleppo
08:35 Jeddah (SDI)	08:40 Istanbul (SDI)
08:50 Baghdad, Tehran	10:00 Athens, Madrid, Casablanca
09:50 Dhahran	11:05 Vienna, Copenhagen
10:15 Jeddah	12:00 London
10:20 Moscow (SU)	12:30 Frankfurt, Paris
11:15 Larnaca (GA)	15:00 Bahrain, Dubai, Muscat (GA)
15:00 Aleppo, Damascus	16:00 Moscow (SU)
15:35 Istanbul (SDI)	16:15 Jeddah (SDI)
17:15 Cairo	18:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai
18:05 Larnaca (SY)	18:50 Larnaca (SY)
18:10 London (BA)	18:55 Kuwait, Karachi (BA)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ambulance (government)	Tel. 75111
Civil defence rescue	" 24391-4
Fire headquarters	" 22090
First aid, fire, police	" 19
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)	" 36381-2
Municipal water service (emergency)	" 37111-3
Police headquarters	" 39141
Najdah, rowing patrol, rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help	" 21111, 37777

Cultural Centres

American Centre (USIS)	Tel. 41520
British Council	" 36147-8
French Cultural Centre	" 37009
Goethe Institute	" 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre	" 44203
Amman Municipal Library	" 36111

BBC RADIO

GMT	
05:00	News; 24 hours
05:30	Sarah Ward
05:45	Paperbacks
06:00	News; Press Review
06:30	David Gell's Music
07:00	News; 24 hours
07:30	Sarah Ward
07:45	Nature Notebook
08:00	News; Reflections
08:15	Take One
08:30	Terry Wogan
09:00	News; Press Review
09:15	Theatre Call
09:30	As I See It
09:45	I really am a very lucky person
10:30	Jazz Club
11:00	News; News about Britain
11:15	Letter from London
11:30	Science in Action
12:00	Radio Newsreel
12:15	John Peel
12:45	Sports Round-up
13:00	News; 24 hours
13:30	Nature Notebook
13:45	Sword of Honour
14:15	Theatre Call
14:30	Doritya Pepe
15:00	Radio Newsreel; Outlook
16:00	News; Commentary
16:15	Association Football
16:45	World Today
17:00	News
17:09	Letter from America
17:25	Origins of Industry
18:00	News; News about Britain
18:15	Radio Newsreel
18:30	An Anthology of British Choirs
19:00	Outlook; News Summary
19:45	Stock Market Report
20:00	News; 24 hours
20:30	Sports International
21:00	Have you heard this one?
21:15	Science in Action
21:45	Take One
22:00	News; World Today
22:25	Financial News
22:45	Sports Round-up
23:00	News; Commentary

JORDAN TELEVISION

CHANNEL 3 & 6	
6:00	Quran
6:05	Cartoons
6:30	Wide world of sports
8:00	News in Arabic
CHANNEL 3	
7:30	Health programme
8:30	Arabic series
9:15	Reportage
CHANNEL 6	
7:30	News in Hebrew
7:45	Varieties
8:30	Doc
9:10	Victorian scandals
10:00	News in English
10:15	Police woman

هذه اصداتك

هكذا صد القوم

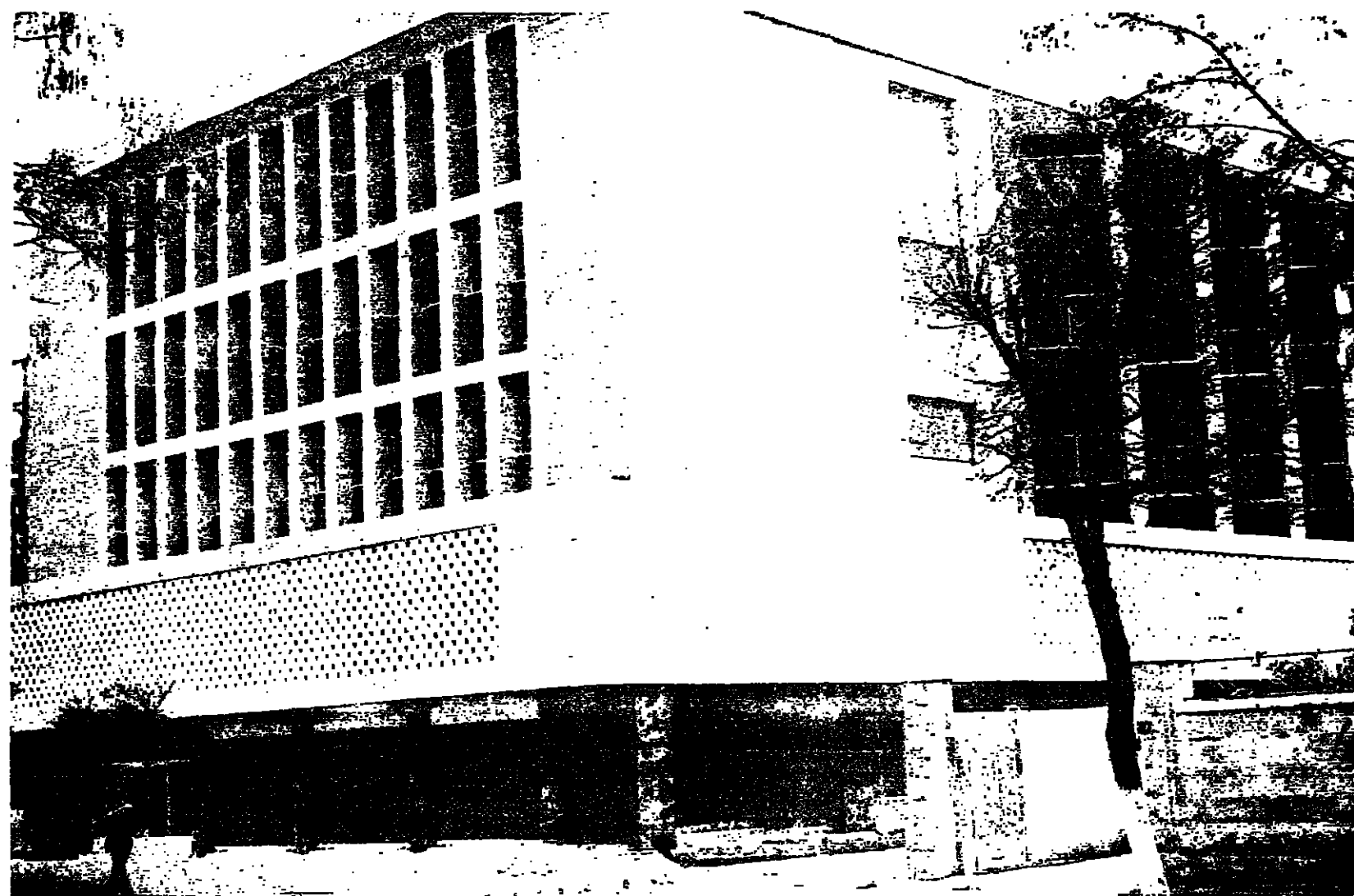
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U.S. car giants lash out before law enforces moderacy

DETROIT, Michigan (CSM). — The big-car "battle of the giants" has erupted, a final gasp before all carmakers are forced by governmental edict to improve the 'mileage' efficiency of their engines, which means slimming down car size and weight.

The five car divisions of General Motors (G.M.) are taking the lead at squeezing off the fat. The full-size G.M. car in 1977 is up to half-a-tonne lighter than a comparable '76 model and around 25 cms shorter in overall length -- a massive switch for the big-car king.

With few exceptions, G.M.'s full-size line will be about the size of its 1976-model mid-size cars.

Ford Motor Company and Chrysler, by contrast, are sticking with their full-size offerings for another year at least. Both are planning a hard-hitting drive to capture a bigger chunk of the full-size market -- motorists who still want to sit behind the wheel of a two-and-a-half ton automobile. And there are a lot of them.

"There is every indication that demand for full-size cars will continue to be strong," says Richard D. McLaughlin, head of automotive sales for the Chrysler-Plymouth division.

Yet despite the American fondness for big cars, the irrevocable trend is towards smaller, more efficient models. By 1980, all carmakers will have restyled and

copied from the Rolls-Royce, and, although William L. Mitchell, G.M.'s styling vice-president, objects to the suggestion, from the Mercedes as well.

To compensate for the smaller scale of its standard-size cars, G.M. is upgrading the interiors with a more plush treatment. It is dropping the hardtop from its full-size lineup, moving instead to a pillared design.

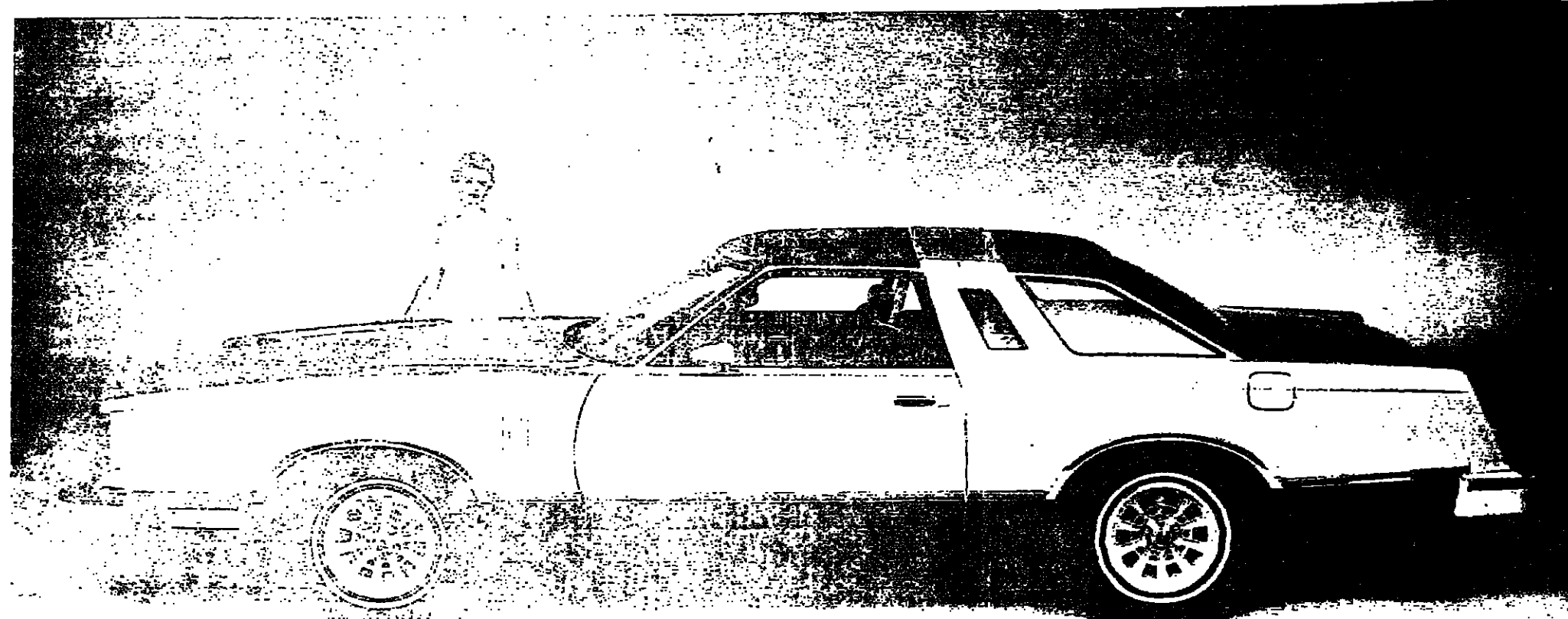
The biggest '77 engine in the G.M. lineup is Cadillac's 6800 c.c., cast-iron "4".

An Oldsmobile 5600 c.c. V-8 diesel is targeted for the 1979 model year, unless emission standards force a change in plans.

G.M. is introducing a standard-feature electronic spark-timing system on its new front-wheel-drive Olds Toronado, a system which continually adjust timing in response to information fed to it from the crankshaft, a vacuum sensor and a coolant-temperature sensor.

Ford Motor Company is dropping its Torino, Elite and Montego nameplates and is calling its mid-size Ford cars LTD IIs. All Mercury intermediates are called Cougar.

The Ford Pinto gets a new sloping front end of resilient plastic. Higher 'mileage' is expected because of lighter-weight aluminum bumper bars and changes in the drive train. An all-glass hatch al-



Ford Thunderbird.

pete with the Chevrolet Monte Carlo and Pontiac Grand Prix. All spring as its entry against the Ford intermediates have dual rectangular headlamps and new wheel sheet metal.

Based on the Granada Monarch, The Mark V, successor to the it will have its own front and rear

red ink, is basking in the success of its high-selling Cordoba and the Volare/Aspen duo by Plymouth and Dodge. Options are expanded, while the Cordoba undergoes a few styling revisions.

The intermediate Fury is restyled front rear, while the full-size Gran Fury revises the model lineup.

The Dodge Dart and Plymouth Valiant, longtime favourites with a lot of Chrysler-product buyers, are scrapped for '77. The intermediate Dodge is renamed Monaco, dropping the Coronet nameplate.

A new 3600 c.c. "6" engine is standard in all Chrysler intermediates; it is said to be almost as peppy as Chrysler's 5100 c.c. V-8. The old single-barrel 3600 c.c. continues as base engine for Volare and Aspen, while the new 3600 is an option.

American Motors (AMC) unveils its new Pacer station wagon in an effort to pry the Pacer sedan out of its sales rut. An instant success when introduced a year ago, the Pacer slumped when U.S. car tastes shifted from small back to big.

Gremlin, meanwhile, is styled from the "A" pillar forward, including a sloping front end and eggcrate grille. AMC will put the Audi 4-cylinder engine in the Gremlin in January -- thus giving the car a more peppy image.

A new figure appears on 1977 car labels. In addition to city and highway kms. per litre data, the Environmental Protection Agency also tells owners the yearly fuel cost based on kms per litre figures. The estimate is based on 25,000 kms. a year and a 17-cents-a-litre price estimated by the Federal Energy Administration.

Further, the EPA is tightening its enforcement of automotive-emissions standards. The agency is spotchecking all new-model cars and light-duty trucks coming off assembly lines. Previous tests were on production prototypes only.

Many 1977 cars are expected to get better 'mileage' when compared with the '76s. G.M., for example, asserts its 44 new models of "full-size" and luxury cars will average just over one more km. per litre.

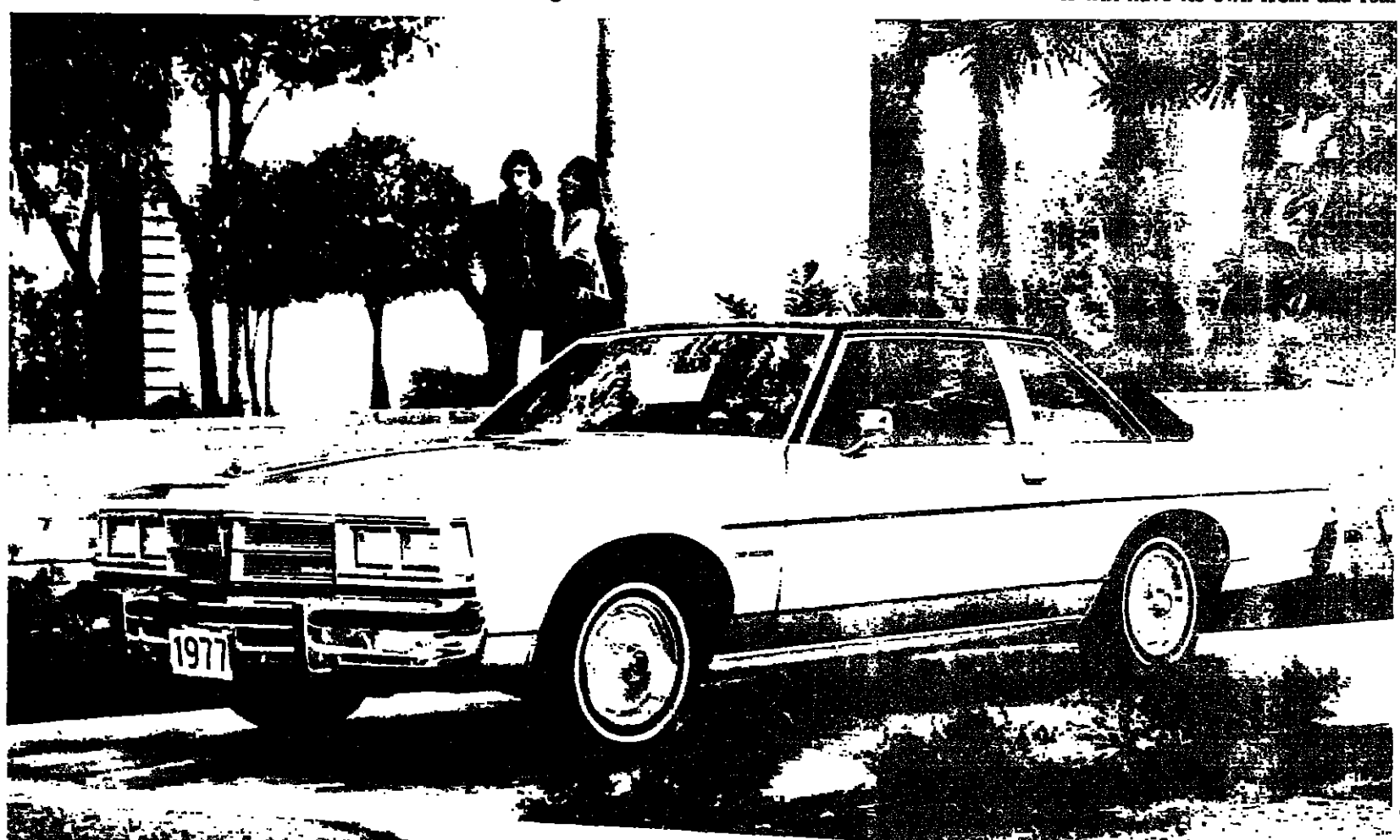
"That's a 10 per cent improvement over our 1976 federal fuel economy and more than a 50 per cent increase over the base year 1974," declares G.M. President E.M. Estes.

Meanwhile, the U.S. auto industry is racking up some impressive sales figures after two disastrous years.

U.S. carmakers built some 1 million units in the 1976-model year, a 30 per cent increase over 1975. In 1973, the industry turned out 9.9 million cars, an all-time record.

G.M. took 56.86 per cent of the total U.S. market, up 1.07 percentage points. Ford was down 1.51 percentage points to 26 per cent. And AMC, at 3.5 per cent, fell 0.56 of a percentage point. Chrysler managed to keep its share of the market at 13.0 per cent, the same as 1975.

All carmakers expect better sales performance in 1977.



Pontiac Catalina two-door coupé.

resized almost everything they build.

Federal government mandates already call for an across-the-board average of 110 kms. to a litre in 1975; 115 in 1979; and 121 in 1980. By 1985, if the current law remains on the books, the auto industry will have to meet a 165 kms. average for all cars sold in the United States.

The only way to achieve these goals is to reduce the size and weight of the cars and improve the efficiency of the engineering. Chrysler cars, which averaged 100 kms. per litre in 1976, are expected to average just over that next year.

G.M. Chairman Thomas A. Murphy predicts that small cars, those weighing 1,600 kgs. or less, could account for more than 70 per cent of G.M.'s total sales by turn of the decade. Today, the figure is around 20 per cent.

Despite the slimmed-down image, the G.M. lineup for 1977 earns high marks for design. The scaled down full-size cars borrow heavily from the Cadillac Seville, the mini-Cadillac introduced more than a year ago by G.M.'s prestige-car division.

The Seville, in turn, already had

so is featured on the Pinto and on the Mercury Bobcat as well.

The new intermediate-sized Thunderbird replaces the Ford Elite. It has new sheet metal and shares tooling and dimensions with the mid-size Fords. With hide-away headlights and a lower price tag, the new T-bird is aimed com-

Mark IV, has a squared-off look reminiscent of the Mercedes. Continental uses the Mark IV grille.

Ford will introduce its snappy, front-wheel-drive Fiesta in the United States next spring, probably in April. The car already is being produced in Europe. Ford also will

ends and include a new hood and deck lid. A fuel-injected 5620 c.c. engine is rumoured for the car. The Seville uses a fuel-injected,

5660 c.c. engine. A two-door 'baby Lincoln' is expected in 1978.

Chrysler Corporation, back in the running after a long bout with

the running after a long bout with

the running after a long bout with



Plymouth Volare custom coupé.



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هكذا صنع القليل

Chinese official: Unrest almost over

By Rene Filpo
PEKING, Jan. 2 (AFP). — "A few problems remain" following the troubles that occurred in certain regions of China last year and in 1975, a Chinese official disclosed here today.

But the situation was now "under control" everywhere, he added, without excluding the possibility that certain incidents, isolated and minor ones, might still crop up.

During a wide-ranging conversation with journalists, the official confirmed that sometimes violent troubles and incidents reported over the past few days by the foreign press had taken place, mainly during 1976 and only up to the start of October.

See related story — p. 3

At that time the arrest of the "gang of four" headed by Mao Tse-tung's widow Chiang Ching ended the fighting that had taken place between rival factions, the official said. He did not want to be identified.

The official said the "gang of four" always supported both sides

ISRAEL'S GNP

SHOWS FLIMSY RISE OF 1%

TEL AVIV, Jan. 2 (AFP). — Israel's population rose by 2.3 per cent during 1976 to reach 3,573,000 while the Gross National Product (GNP) showed an increase of only one per cent in real terms according to figures published by the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics.

The Jewish population rose by 60,000 during last year — two per cent — and that of the Arabs by 19,000 — up 3.6 per cent.

Immigrants numbered 20,000 but officials here pointed out that of the total only 12,000 were genuine immigrants, the other 8,000 were staying only temporarily in Israel. Moreover immigration was more or less offset by emigration, officials said.

The figures showed a spectacular increase of 14 per cent in exports of consumer goods and services and a drop of between three and four per cent in imports.

However, the GNP rose by only one per cent and investments continued to decline last year in real terms to 22.5 per cent below amounts recorded before October 1973.

simultaneously in order to incite them to even more violence.

This was notably the case in Paoting, 100 kms. south of Peking, where the most serious incidents occurred.

According to a provincial broadcast at the beginning of December, gangs of "class enemies" had sacked grain reserves, "murder and rape".

Other provincial radio stations reported that various regions of China had been affected last year. They included Hebei, Szechuan, Shansi, Fukien, Heilungkiang, Yunnan, Kweichow, Chekiang, Hupei, Liaoning and Shansi.

Asked in particular about the central province of Szechuan, whose local radio station at the end of December mentioned "civil war" in which "many revolutionary comrades gave their lives," the official confirmed that situation was "in the past," even if a few "problems", as in Paoting, still remained.

The situation is "very calm", he said, and at present the main thing was to calm people down.

The official particularly denied certain interpretations that might have been made abroad to the effect that followers of the "gang of four" had risen up after the arrest of their leaders in Peking and that resistance to the current regime had thus emerged over the past three months.

The announcement of the "good news" the arrest of Mme. Chiang Ching, Mr. Wang Hung-wen, Mr. Chang Chun-chiao and Mr. Yao Wen-yuan brought about an end to the fighting and enmities, the official explained in substance, the problems that might remain were a result of the past situation. They are being solved, he declared.

He did not say how many people had been killed or injured in the provincial troubles which he said had generally continued sporadically since the Cultural Revolution of the 1960's.

The official explained that due to bans imposed by the "gang of four," radio stations and the press had earlier not had the right to report on the troubles.

But now, he added, the radio stations were able to speak about them and thus revealed to the people the harmful effects of the "gang of four's" pernicious acts.

"Thus people might think, but wrongly, 'that what happened in the past is going on now,' the official concluded.



VICTIM — A southern Italian peasant cries in front of the rubble of his house which was destroyed by a landslide Friday at the village of Sarno in the Reggio Calabria. The landslide, caused by heavy rainstorms, destroyed 20 houses and is threatening the rest of the village. 40 houses have been so far evacuated. (AP wirephoto).

Arab health conference postponed

ABU DHABI, Jan. 2 (R). — A conference of Gulf Arab health ministers, due to start here tomorrow, has been postponed until the middle of next month, it was officially reported here today.

Officials did not give a reason for the postponement but said the Gulf health ministers would meet here before the scheduled opening in Libya on Feb. 21 of a full-scale conference of Arab health ministers.

Britain revokes release of Palestine documents

LONDON, Jan. 2 (R). — A set of secret British cabinet papers referring to Palestine and due to have been released yesterday have been withheld because of the "sensitivity of the issue," informed sources said here today.

The papers were to have been among those released to the public under a law which allows cabinet papers to be revealed after 30 years.

But under the Public Record Act, government officials have the

Sudanese troops alerted on border with Ethiopia

KHARTOUM, Jan. 2 (AFP). — Sudanese troops were today reported to be on alert along the 1,000-mile-long border with Ethiopia following accusations by President Jaafar Nimeiri that hostile elements were being trained in camps inside Ethiopian territory.

Defence Minister Lieut. Gen. Bashir Mohammad Ali said today that the Sudanese forces were ready to "repel any intruders seeking to commit aggression against Sudanese territory."

In his statement published in

the daily newspaper Al Sahafa, Lt. Gen. Ali said the Sudanese forces were following the situation on the border closely and would act decisively against aggressors.

The statement followed yesterday's threat by President Nimeiri to raise an army from among the 100,000 Ethiopian and Eritrean refugees in Sudan in the event of an attack from over the border.

The president also hinted that he might close the border between the two countries.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

● TRIPOLI, Jan. 2 (AFP). — The "green book" by Col. Muammar Qadhafi of Libya on solving the problems of democracy has been printed in seven foreign languages including English and Japanese, the Arab Revolution News Agency (ARNA) reported today. The other languages are French, German, Italian, Spanish and Turkish, and the book will also be published in Portuguese, ARNA said. Col. Qadhafi's book rejects traditional parliamentary government and political parties.

● BELFAST, Jan. 2 (R). — Guerrillas ambushed a British army patrol in Northern Ireland today, killing one soldier, injuring two others and sending civilians diving for cover just as they were leaving a morning mass in a Catholic church. The incident, causing the first military casualties of the new year in this British province, occurred in the border town of Crossmaglen in County Armagh.

● MOSCOW, Jan. 2 (AFP). — A summit meeting between Canadian and Soviet leaders would have positive results, Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau has told the Communist Party newspaper Pravda. In an interview published by the paper today, Mr. Trudeau said he warmly welcomed the 10-year Soviet-Canadian economic, industrial, scientific and technical agreement signed last year. But he said there was still plenty of scope for widening economic and trade ties and boosting political cooperation between the two countries.

● ALGIERS, Jan. 2 (R). — The daily La Republique this weekend became Algeria's third solely Arabic-language newspaper when it dropped its French-language pages and published under its Arabic name, Al Jounhouria. The French-language daily Al Moudjahid said today the change in Al Jounhouria, published in the western port of Oran, was part of the country's Arabisation process.

● KUWAIT, Jan. 2 (AFP). — An official of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development is suspected of having tricked the fund out of \$600,000, the Kuwait Al Anba newspaper reported today. The newspaper said the official, who was not named, falsified cheques to draw money from the fund. Police are inquiring into the affair, the newspaper said.

Allon greets Sadat speech ...

Any arrangement demanded by the Israelis — demilitarized zones, U.N. supervision, superpower guarantees — would be acceptable to him, he said. What the settlement must include, he said, is recognition of the Palestinians' right to a homeland and a complete pullout by the Israelis from all territory, including Arab Jerusalem. The Israelis have annexed Arab Jerusalem and have said its status is not negotiable, but Mr. Sadat, without elaborating, said he thought it was open to discussion.

Saudi Arabia's refusal to go along with the 15 per cent price increase for next year adopted by 11 other members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries — an action for which the Saudis said they expect a show of U.S. "appreciation" — was described by Mr. Sadat as "a master coup."

But he said the Saudis acted "of their own free will and without any interference from anybody."

Mr. Sadat said the Arabs were not trying to "stampede or harass" Mr. Carter by aiming a major diplomatic initiative at him before he even takes office. What they are doing, he said, is resuming a "peace process" that started after the war of October, 1973. "What I am saying is this. Let

us resume the momentum of the peace process that we have already started," Mr. Sadat said.

Mr. Allon said however that Mr. Sadat's interview might have been timed to encourage pressure on Israel from the incoming United States administration to give in to Arab demands. But he said Washington was committed to reconvening the Geneva talks with the original participants.

Former Prime Minister Golda Meir today told a visiting group from Britain that Israel might have to withstand new American pressure when the new administration takes over.

She said President-elect Jimmy Carter might want to improve relations with Third World countries possibly at Israel's expense, group members said.

The outcome depended on Israel's capacity to tell the United States "thus far and no further," she was quoted as saying.

NO U.S. COMMENT

— The State Department Friday declined substantive comment on the interview.

"Quite apart from the fact that there is so much in Sadat's reported statements that it would take weeks, even months, to develop a policy, it would be a presumption for us in the last weeks of this [Ford] administration to comment on the interview," an official said in Washington.

... While Israeli intellectual claims

ple of freedom, sovereignty and security for both people."

Gen. Peled said it might be some time before the PLO would openly make such statements of its policy, but that the Palestinians had assured him that this would be their position when they

received Israeli recognition.

Israel's government describes the PLO as a "terrorist" group and refuses to have dealings with it.

The joint statement added that the PLO wished to be invited to a reconvened Middle East peace conference.

4 Basques wounded in amnesty demonstration

BILBAO, Spain, Jan. 2 (AFP). — Police clashed for more than two hours in nearby Algorta today with Basque demonstrators demanding an amnesty of all Spanish political prisoners.

An estimated 30 members of the paramilitary civil guard fired rubber bullets and smoke bombs to break up the crowd of 1,000. Four demonstrators were injured by rubber bullets. The demonstration followed a fund-raising football match between former Stars of San Sebastian and Bilbao teams.

The Basque provinces of Vizcaya and Guipuzcoa have mobilised in response to a pro-amnesty campaign begun at the end of December and expected to continue for several weeks.

Meanwhile, priests in the Basque provinces today appealed in Sunday sermons for the release of all the country's estimated 200 political prisoners, church sources said.

The Madrid liberal newspaper El Pais said in an editorial today that the Basque provinces held the key to Spain's stability. It called the Basque problem the most difficult and dangerous facing King Juan Carlos.

The amnesty issue is closely linked with the rise of nationalism throughout Spain's outlying regions.

An amnesty has been demanded by the extreme leftist kidnappers of the President of Spain's advisory Council of State, Senor Antonio Maria Oriol y Urquijo, abducted nearly three weeks ago. For the moment negotiations are at a standstill over Mr. Oriol's fate.

178 leftists face trial in Morocco accused of 1973 plot

CASABLANCA, Jan. 2 (R). — The trial opens here tomorrow of 178 leftists accused of plotting against the regime of King Hassan II of Morocco.

A month ago the Moroccan government released 105 people who had been held in preventive detention for up to two years on suspicion of subversion, and said remainder would be brought trial before February this year.

The releases came after a day hunger strike at the Aïn Ja prison in Casablanca was called off only after the authorities assured defence lawyers that the prisoners would stand trial or be released.

Trials have been going on throughout the country during past three years in connection with the 1973 uprising, and number of death sentences have been passed.

Among specific accusations are against defendants in trials were exploding a bomb the printing-plant of a pro-government daily, attempting a break out from a top-security prison plotting to kidnap Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed, the king's son.

Included in the group is an Italian schoolteacher, Signora F. di Maggio, who last month released on provisional liberty.

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Pravda: Israel

provokes Arab

at a time wher

peace is near

MOSCOW, Jan. 2 (AFP). — Soviet Union today condemn recent Israeli military manuvres in occupied Sinai as a "berate provocation" against Arab countries.

The Communist Party newspaper Pravda said the manoeuvres were inopportune because they were currently real opportunity for a Middle East political settlement.

The paper recalled that Soviet Union had for a long been urging that the Geneva conference on the Middle East should be reconvened. The United Nations General Assembly had now made a similar demand.

Pravda said Soviet prop for achieving a peaceful Middle East settlement taking into account the interests of all countries involved in the conflict ready existed.

The paper said the Israeli provocations "probably intend to set an appropriate tone for 1977."

But they could not silence call for peace and stability in the Middle East which Arab world public opinion and patriotic and progressive circles in Israel wanted, said the paper.

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Experience more than 3 years or equivalent.	Concreting, carpentry, reinforcing bar benders.	Skilled worker.
Age 18 - 35.	General labourers of civil works.	Semi-skilled work labourer.
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Location	Address	Receiving hours
Amman	Amman office, P.O.B. 1616, or, Near the Children Hospital Jabel Lurweibdeh, Amman.	15:00 — 16:30
Karameh	East Ghor site office, near Karameh Police Station.	08:00 — 17:00
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Amman branch office		
CHOSUK CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD.		
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Tel. Amman 24954 — Karameh 26.		